



DEEPWATER NEWS

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Deepwater and Homeland Security

On September 11th, the U.S. suffered a horrific attack by terrorists who breached our national defenses, commandeered commercial aircraft, and killed thousands of U.S. and foreign citizens. America's security, and that of its homeland waters, are at risk.

America's maritime domain – nearly 3.4 million square miles of ocean space and more than 95,000 miles of coastline – is vitally important to both our economic prosperity and defense needs. Our ports are the lifelines for sustaining U.S. commerce and military sealift response throughout the world.

The need is real.

America's waters are our gateway to world markets, with ships carrying goods totaling 95% of our foreign trade, excluding that with Canada and Mexico. Our waters sustain a \$24 billion commercial fishing industry and a \$71 billion recreational and tourism industry.

Even before the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks, our country faced an array of maritime challenges – environmental degradation, illegal and mass migration, over-fishing, drug smuggling, organized crime, arms trafficking, and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. These dangers pose direct threats to American lives, property, safety, health, stability, and values.

Our missions are clear.

The Coast Guard is uniquely positioned to provide America with a versatile, multi-mission force to address security challenges in the maritime domain. To deal with Homeland Security threats at sea –

most of which have a significant law enforcement dimension to them – the U.S. cannot look solely to a military solution. Although they offer important surveillance and tracking capabilities, traditional naval forces are inadequate to stop this kind of maritime infiltration. As both a military service and a federal law enforcement agency, the Coast Guard has the legal authority and demonstrated ability to fight an enemy that crosses boundaries without constraint.

Interdiction of those wishing to breach U.S. maritime borders as far from shore as possible will allow the CG and its law enforcement and military partners time to react to emerging maritime threats.

Deepwater is key.

The Deepwater Program is a key factor in ensuring the Coast Guard continues to fulfill its mission of safeguarding sovereignty and security in U.S. waters.

Today's current cutters, aircraft and associated command, control and communications equipment are aging and technologically obsolete. Deepwater assets will not only leverage technology to perform maritime security more effectively, but will be completely integrated and interoperable – characteristics that will make the critical difference in meeting the diverse challenges that confront America.

The Integrated Deepwater System Program will replace or modernize the inventory WPBs, air assets and major cutters that will provide an improved offshore presence and an extended on-scene coastal presence, a need recently demonstrated by the CGC Tahoma in New York Harbor and the many cutters arrayed in our major ports.

The next generation of ships and aircraft will respond to mission priorities based on significantly improved response capability, information, intelligence and communications and, when combined with the National Distress and Response

System, will give us knowledge superiority within the maritime domain.

By being highly mobile and flexible, the new assets will respond with agility, speed and maximum effectiveness to deliver boarding teams to the decks of a wide variety of threat vessels, thus completing the critical interdiction endgame and apprehending those who would endanger the safety and security of the U.S.

The Integrated Deepwater System will bring with it the strength of seamless interoperability with the Navy. This synergy will allow the Navy's robust sensors and C4ISR to complement the Coast Guard Deepwater missions. This interoperability will be the linchpin for continued cooperation in attaining a true National Fleet. The Navy and the Coast Guard are both firmly committed to this end. The Navy's active involvement in many facets of the Deepwater Program is strong and key to the future.

New hardware alone will not be enough. Through advances in technology and information sharing, the Service will add an organic capability for command and control, allowing for critical maritime domain awareness. Fusion centers and command centers will link databases and assets via increased bandwidth for real-time input and data sharing. Such a common operational picture will allow for total situational awareness and layered defense capabilities.

The Deepwater contract, scheduled to be awarded in the spring of 2002, will allow the Coast Guard to work with industry as mission requirements and technology changes over the next 20 years. As our threats and challenges change, so will the tools we use to meet the demands of the American public.

For more information, please visit the Deepwater web site at www.uscg.mil/deepwater or contact the Deepwater Communications Team at 202-267-1649